



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Influenza

Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Influenza is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.) Influenza-associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza-like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable immediately.
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases suspected or identified as being novel influenza or influenza positives that are not able to be subtyped • ME-CDC recommends each facility sends their first ten Influenza positives specimens for confirmation
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. • Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred: Nasopharyngeal swab, Throat swab, Nasal wash • Other Acceptable specimens: Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), Nasal aspirate, Sputum • ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Influenza Collection Kit from HETL • Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media provided in the kit. • Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Use wet ice or cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival at HETL. Samples may be sent to CDC for further testing. Submitters with high priority specimens should contact MeCDC at 1-800-821-5821 for expedited testing.
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. • Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested. • Do not use wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs • do not freeze specimens for PCR testing
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Influenza RNA Found, Influenza A/H3, Influenza A/H1, Influenza 2009 A/H1, Influenza B RNA DETECTED or Equivocal, or INCONCLUSIVE or INFLUENZA A; UNABLE TO SUBTYPE. Positive influenza A H1 and H3 samples are reflexed to antiviral resistance testing by Pyrosequencing. • All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fee for Influenza PCR
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87502 and 87503 (PCR)
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722 • Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769 • Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706 • CT/GC at 207-287-6244